**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, April 13, 2022**

**County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, 94 Main St., Colton NY 13625**

Present: Ronald Robert, Town Supervisor Councilpersons: Lisa Fisher

Kevin Hawley, Highway Supt. Jacob Poste

Darren Richards, Code/Safety/DPW Supt. Randi-Lee Cook-Planty

Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk Kevin Beary

Meeting attendees: Rick Perkins, Kirke Perry, Lorraine Gowing, Nancy Robert, Laurie Thornton, Ed Fuhr

Counselman Jacob Poste was absent from this meeting.

Zoom attendees: Dennis Eickoff, Judy Fuhr, Jeff Tubolino, Cyndy Hennessy, Peggy Shea, Eleanor Menz

Supervisor R. Robert lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting opened at 6:02pm as scheduled.

Motion #1

**Approve March 2022 Minutes**

Motion made by Mr. Beary, seconded by Mrs. Planty to approve the minutes from the March 2022 regular monthly meeting.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #2

**Authorize Bank Recon, Transfers & Bills in Warrant # 4, 2022**

Motion made by Ms. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Beary to authorize payment of bills labeled Warrant # 4, do a budget amendment and a transfer as indicated below.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Transfer from A1991.900 General fund……………………………………..$70,681.00

to SS8110.200 Sewer fund equip.

General Fund………………………………………………………$79,257.73

Highway Fund………………………………………………………41,395.48

Library Fund………………………………………………………….1,549.56

Sewer Fund #1………………………………………………………75,357.40

Water Fund #1………………………………………………………..3,537.98

Colton Light Dist……………………………………………………….883.65

S. Colton Light Dist…………………………………………………….825.43

**County Legislators Report:**

We had 41 resolutions.

We had 12 modifications to the budget/grants.

We had 10 Agreements/Contracts to be signed.

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 10 vacancies positions.

We had resolutions adopting a local law setting the salary for the County Administrator $165,000.

We had a resolution reappointing the Republican Election Commissioner – Tom Nichols.

We had a resolution appointing a Director of Public Health for St Lawrence County --- Jolene Munger.

We had a resolution opposing NYS Senate and Assembly bills imposing an excise tax on the sale of ammunition.

We had a resolution opposing the 2022 Court Consolidation proposal --- appointing not electing.

We had a resolution correcting/voiding Taxes for the Real Property.

We had a resolution approving rates for the coroner’s program for funeral homes for transportation services.

We had a resolution authorizing an increase in rates for the Public Health department Medical Director.

We had a resolution proclaiming March as Maple syrup producer’s month in St Lawrence County.

We had a resolution proclaiming April 4-10 2022 as national public health week.

We had a resolution proclaiming April as national child abuse prevention month.

We had a resolution proclaiming April as sexual assault awareness month.

We had a resolution proclaiming Earth Day in St Lawrence County.

We had a resolution designating April as Fair housing month.

We had a resolution proclaiming March as Women’s history month in St Lawrence County.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Rick

**Library Report:**

Mrs. Lorraine Gowing presented the layout for an outside Enchanted Story Garden at the library. This will be fantastic for the kids especially during the summer months. The library was awarded a grant in the amount of $21,000.00. There have also been donations of approx. $3,500.00 from the community.

Motion #3

Ms. Fisher made the motion that the Town of Colton DPW Dept will assist in this proposal for the library, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Highway Report:**

* Since the last board meeting, we have hopefully finished with snow and ice.
* We have been doing vehicle maintenance and we have started sweeping town roads. I plan on starting spring cleaning in the villages very soon, there are still some snow banks that hopefully will finish melting this weekend.

**1**

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, April 13, 2022**

* After spring cleaning is done, we will be starting on grading our dirt roads. Hopefully very soon we will receive our Chips letter informing us of the amount of funding well get for our capital work. As soon as I get the letter, I will finish my agreement to spend form to include the projects for this summer. I will let the board members know when the form is completed and I will leave it in the Clerk’s office for your review and singing.
* I have a proposal which all the board members should have a copy on a new village plow truck. This is a large heavy duty pickup truck that would replace the aging truck we use now and it would also replace the pickup truck that we are short on. Last month we talked about purchasing a used pickup truck and that idea met resistance from the board. This item is on the Onondaga county bid which is the bid that we have piggy backed from on the last five plow truck purchases. I also have included a municipal lease quote for you to consider. If this truck was ordered now, we would have it by the end of the year. In the meantime, maybe we could borrow one of DPW's pickups for the immediate problem of lacking transportation to and from jobsites.

Motion #4

Ms. Fisher made the motion to approve the purchase of the above proposed truck for the Highway Dept with the stipulation of freezing the remaining $12,000.00 in the Highways current equipment line, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Code Enforcement Report:**

Transfer Station

Transfer station is running well. We have a fuel charge cap at 1100 per month. With fuel costs going up, it’s

nice we have a limit for at least this year. We have reached 700.00 and 1,100.00 recently in the past. Our

meeting needs to occur for the upgraded transfer station. I’d like to start grant pursuits soon. I cannot do that

until the plan is approved.

Water/Sewer

Plant is running smoothly. We are on manual on our variable speed drives until at least Spring run-off is

finished. Our first sludge haul will take place late April early May. Lift station pumps and diffusers will be

serviced after spring cleaning is done. During Spring break, we are having S&L replace the lift station 3-phase

electrical panel.

Building and Grounds

Spring cleaning started. Started on the heaviest plow marks and will work on sweeping sand and lawns. Town

Hall backyard complete and Museum was started. One more day at the rink to convert over to softball season

and to break down the liner and rink boards.

Motion #5

Ms. Fisher made the motion to hire Dalton Francis on as the Town of Colton’s temporary full time summer help position. Mr. Francis will be hired at minimum wage and will start approximately May 23 of this year. Seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Safety

A safety meeting was complete by Andrea Malik with her BTI crew in-house and wilderness safety training

which was approved last year was conducted this past weekend at Paul Smith’s. Chemical training was

conducted during the last water/waste-water conference for DPW crew. Highway completed their 8 hour

MSHA training via Zoom that we set up at the Town Hall. We have an antenna that went down from last year

to this year. It was discovered at the beginning of BTI season. This antenna is a slight improvement on the last

one and can reach a couple miles farther. I’ve asked the fire department to split this bill. They meet on

Tuesday, April 12, 2022. I am asking the Town Board to authorize this quote so we can get the repeater

working for our radios.

Motion #6

Ms. Fisher made the motion to accept the proposal of a new/replacement antenna with the Colton Fire District paying for half the cost, seconded by Mrs. Planty.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Code Enforcement Office

Building permits are up to 7 for the season. This is low for this year. Cost of construction prices are more than

doubled. 11 subdivisions last year indicate development in Colton is still on the rise. I conducted a training

session for the Town of Colton Planning Board for 2 of the 4 credits they need for recertification for their

annual training. A report on that training will go to the town clerk for their training records.

**Town Clerk Report:**

* March 2st, I was able to attend a seminar at the Tailwater Lodge. The seminar was very informative with the NYS FOIL law and also the Open Meetings law. The following Thursday I attended a webinar for the same. Doubling the education on this. This came in handy as I had another FOIL request recently.
* I attended a County Clerks dinner/meeting on April 7th at the Smokehouse in Madrid. These dinners are very helpful and resourceful for new clerks as you can meet and speak with senior clerks in our area. Also, Lisa from CST Group was our guest speaker. I was able to meet and speak with her as well.
* On April 21st , I will be attending a notary class in Canton. This class will be all day. Depending on what Donna has going on, I may have to close the office that day if she cannot fill in for me.

2

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, April 13, 2022**

* The annual NYSTCA clerks conference is coming up April 24th -27th. It will be held in Albany at the Crown Plaza. In February I filled out an application for a scholarship to this conference. Last week I received a letter awarding me the scholarship. This scholarship pays for my room for the entire stay, meals and the cost of classes and registration. There are over 500 town clerks in NY State. I do not know how many filled out an application for the scholarship, however, less than 20 are selected for this award. On Sunday of this conference there is another notary class that I will be attending.
* May 17th, I am registered to take the NYS Notary Exam. This is being held in North Syracuse at the APWU Union Hall building. Between studying and the two classes, I hope to be a NYS Notary by the end of May or beginning of June.

Motion #7

Mr. Beary made to motion to allow Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole to attend all of the above classes and conference, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Assessor Report:**

Exemptions (veterans, star, etc) are completed. Building permits were processed. We’ve sent all information for the Towns tax roll needed to the county. The county reported to me that we are in balance and everything looks good. Our next step is the grievance process and B.A.R. meeting. Grievance day will be on June 1st this year.

CLARIFICATION of February 2022 meeting –

The town board would like to clarify the status of a request made by Mr. Ball to our prior Town Clerk to request a leave of absence. In January of this year, Mr. Ball verbally told the Deputy Town Clerk he would like to take a leave of absence from the Sole Assessor position starting in April. The Deputy Town Clerk told him he would need to submit the request in writing and the board would have the decision to approve or deny.

Mr. Ball did not submit a request in writing or verbally to the Town Board. Mr. Ball also stopped responding to the Town Clerk as well as taxpayers who had questions in January. The board did not approve any leave of absence for Mr. Ball due to the demands of the office this time of year which requires his presence. The Town Board then in February appointed Shelley Rayner as acting Assessor.

**BTI Report:**

* All of the streams will have been treated for the first round by April 15th .
* The bypass sections of the Raquette River at Five Fall and South Colton were treated March 18th, before water levels rose. So far, those are the only sections in the river that we found larvae. We are continually monitoring the river for larvae, which will be easier once water levels drop a

little.

* The new Bti crew are doing a great job. It’s always slower with new crew as they learn the methodology, new terrain and streams. We’ve all been working a lot of overtime to get the first round of streams treated.
* Treatments for mosquitoes started April 11th . I only have one crew member working part-time, two days a week on the mosquito program. Starting next week, since we’ll have the first round of stream treatments completed, I’ll have the entire black fly control crew jump into mosquito control. When the second round of black fly larvae hatches, we’ll go back to black fly control. I’ll have the crew jump back and forth between the two programs as needed.
* Property owners can do a lot to reduce mosquitoes in their backyards by removing standing water on their property. Attached is a checklist of simple but highly effective strategies.
* This weekend all of the Bti crew completed a 16 hour SOLO Wilderness First Aid course at Paul Smith’s College. It was a very comprehensive and practical course. We did a lot of hands-on scenarios outdoors, so actually got to practice the skills we were learning. Once we get caught up on black fly and mosquito treatments, we all agreed we would like to practice together, the various skills we learned so we really know what to do if an emergency in the field occurs. We also were able to get certified in CPR, at no additional fee. It was one of the best CPR classes I

have taken. It was very hands on with lots of practice on the CPR dummies.

* Last month I reminded the Town Supervisor that an increase in the Bti crews field gear allowance from $250 to $350 was approved during the budget session. (This is for boots, raingear etc that we need to do our job in the field.) It needs Board approval and the employee hand book would need to be updated. I just had to order a new pair of boots because my current ones started leaking. They cost $200. One pair of boots. I typically have to bushwhack

7-10 miles a day. You can’t just use cheap barn boots. Having good gear is the first step in preventing injuries.

* We’ve been working without radio communication since the water tower repeat has not been functioning. Darren Richards has been working on the situation and it sounds like when it does get back up and running, which should be very soon, with an improved antenna and other equipment, it will work even better than it did before.
* So, overall, we’re off to a good start and the Bti program is going well.

**Planning Board Report:**

The Planning Board met on March 15, 2022. We did a combination Zoom/in person meeting.

We welcomed our new members Steve Knight and Kris Koehler.

We had no subdivision or conditional use applications. We discussed encouraging planning board members to attend ZBA meetings, and asking the ZBA to document all their decisions. The comprehensive plan presentation was moved to May as several of the planning board members will not be in town for the April meeting.

We discussed changes that should be made to Pierrepont’s solar law to make it compatible with Colton’s land use, including setbacks, differences between major and minor, and so on.

We decided that if we had no subdivision or conditional use applications for April that we would attend a training session at the Pierrepont town hall for DANC’s GIS mapping application, and a presentation on General Code.

Kirke Perry,

Chairman – Planning Board

3

**Colton Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting, April 13, 2022**

**Dog Warden Report:** nothing at this time.

**Correspondence:** nothing at this time.

**Unfinished Business:** nothing at this time.

**New Business:**

Ed Fuhr reported that at Higley Flow State Park, during the winter months, attendance at the park has increased. Equipment has been purchased to keep up with maintenance/grooming. Now with the new equipment, a building is needed to store and maintain the equipment. The Friends of Higley Flow State Park Assoc has received to date approximately $31,000.00 in monetary donations. The FHFSP Assoc is asking the Town of Colton for shared services of man hours to help with this project.

Motion #8

Mrs. Planty made the motion for the Town of Colton to share services of man hours to help with the project at Higley Flow State Park of a maintenance and storage building, seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**Appointments:**

With Mrs. Shelley Rayner now as the Town of Colton’s acting Assessor, there is a vacant position on the Board of Assessment Review. There are two applicants that are interested in the vacant position – Stephen Knight and Peggy Mousaw.

Motion #9

Mrs. Planty made the motion to appoint Stephen Knight to the open position of the Town of Colton B.A.R., seconded by Mr. Beary.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion #10

Mr. Beary made a motion to terminate Mr. Ball due to him failing to meet the residency requirements to hold town office and that his position was deemed vacated as a matter of law, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Motion #11

With no more business to discuss during the regular monthly meeting Mr. Beary made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting at 7:46pm and move into executive session, seconded by Ms. Fisher.

Ayes 4

Noes 0

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole

4